



The Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth
Member, Staff, & Consultant Directory
2017 - 2018



Officers

Michel Anteby, *Chair*
Sasha Goodfriend, *Vice Chair*
Alexander Armand Nally, *Vice Chair*
Jonathan Reveil, *Vice Chair*

Members

Zeke Acevedo
Coco Alinsug
Gary Bailey
Steph Barrak
Roger Bourgeois
Courtney Chelo
Kristin Comment
Julian Cyr
Julian Dormitzer
Mason Dunn
Athena Edmonds
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Zuleny Gonzalez
Scott Hadland
Sasha Heggie
Tanekwah Hinds
Susan Hollins
Nicolas John
Harold Jones
Rachel Kahn

Consultants & Staff

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Hannah Hussey, *Director of Policy & Research*
Landen Motyka, *Commission Coordinator*
Jeff Perrotti, *Safe Schools Program Director*
Jason Wheeler, *Safe Schools Program Manager*

Stewart Landers
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Kelly Simon
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Officers



Michel Anteby

Commission Chair

He/His/Him

Michel is an Associate Professor of Organizational Behavior and Sociology (by courtesy) at Boston University. His research looks at how individuals relate to their work, their occupations, and the organizations they belong to. He examines more specifically the practices people engage in at work that help them sustain their chosen cultures or identities. He holds a joint Ph.D. in sociology from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris and in management from New York University. Michel grew up in France and previously volunteered as a mediator at the LGBT Community Center in New York.



Sasha Goodfriend

Commission Vice Chair

She/Her/Hers

Sasha joined the Commission in 2015 and quickly became engrossed in the work of the Government Relations (talking to legislators at the State House, meeting with various government agencies) thanks to fabulous commission mentors. When she's not working with the Commission, she serves as Co-President of Mass NOW, working to advance intersectional justice for people who identify as women or girls in the Commonwealth. By day, Sasha is the Government Relations Coordinator at Simmons College.

Alexander Armand Nally

Commission Vice Chair

They/Them/Theirs

Alex is a genderqueer mixed race artist/activist from Springfield, MA with an interest in government systems. They spearhead the annual policy recommendations workgroup that meets with and issues recommendations to over twenty different state agencies annually. The policy work is a critical piece to the larger puzzle of ensuring safety and equitable services are provided to LGBTQ youth in Massachusetts and through these recommendations they ask agencies to provide culturally competent services, develop and disperse relevant resources, and collect LGBTQ youth data to aid in making the Commonwealth more accessible for LGBTQ youth.

Alex is called to this work on the Commission because they've experienced the statistic of being homeless and couch surfing as a queer teenager, and wanted to be part of the movement and work that makes their communities safer and more inclusive.



Jonathan Reveil

Commission Vice Chair

He/His/Him

At Codman Square Health Center (CSHC), Jonathan works as the Prevention and Outreach Coordinator within the HIV Services Department. His cultural background and focus on community collaboration has led him to a number of volunteer opportunities and various community leadership roles. Currently, he serves as a member of the Ryan White Planning Council, an independent federally required planning body that works to organize, evaluate, prioritize, and allocate Ryan White Part A HIV funding in the Boston Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) for people living with HIV/AIDS. Moreover, he sits on the Board of Directors at the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition and serves on the Steering

Committee of the Young Leaders Council at Fenway Health. Jonathan aspires to use his voice to foster constructive dialogues between LGBTQ people and faith institutions in order to educate and lessen the discrimination, and the religion-based prejudices that keep young LGBTQ people feeling safe and supported. He challenges others to do the same.

Commission Members



Zeke Acevedo

They/Them/Theirs

Zeke Acevedo is a high school sophomore at Ipswich High School. They're an active member of Ipswich's theater tech department, the robotics team, and GSA. Additionally, they are a part of the GSA State Leadership Council, where they facilitate regional meetings where GSAs come together. During their free time, Zeke enjoys reading books, traveling, and talking long walks.



Coco Alinsug

He/His/Him

Coco devotes himself to social justice, HIV/AIDS prevention, and LGBT youth issues and receives recognition both nationally and internationally for his relentless work. He has served as Executive Director of the North Shore Alliance of GLBT Youth (NAGLY) for nine years and the Outreach and Insurance Manager of Fenway Health. He consults various HIV and STD Outreach Programs located in the North Shore and Boston. Coco and his team travel around New England, educating people about HIV and STD transmission. He also attends international conferences around the world as a polyglot fluent in nine languages. Originally from the Philippines, Coco resides in Lynn with his husband Peter.



Gary Bailey, DHL, MSW, ACSW

He/His/Him

Gary Bailey is a native of Cleveland, Ohio and resides in Boston's South End community. At Simmons College, he is a Professor of Practice at Simmons College School of Social Work, and has a secondary appointment at the Simmons College School of Nursing and Health Sciences. At the School of Social Work, he directs the Urban Leadership Certificate Program; and coordinates the Dynamics of Racism and Oppression Sequence. He chairs the School of Social Work Awards Committee. He was a member of the School of Social Works Curriculum Committee. He was the inaugural chair of the Health and Aging sequence.

Professor Bailey is Chair of the Simmons College Black Administrators, Faculty and Staff Council (BAFAS); is a member of the Dotson Bridge and Mentoring program Advisory board; the Center for Excellence and Teaching Advisory Committee; is a member of the Simmons Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council (DIAC); a member of the Simmons College BIAS Response Team; served on the Simmons College Leadership Council; served on the Simmons College Faculty Senate; and co-Chaired the Simmons College Initiative on Human Rights and Social Justice.

In June 2010, he was elected President of the International Federation of Social Workers. He is the first person of color to hold this post. He is a past president of the Massachusetts Chapter of NASW and of NASW National-Washington DC. He was the Chairperson of the National Social Work Public Education Campaign. He was a member of the Council on Social Work Educations Commission on Global Social Work Education and sits on its Committee on Human Rights. Professor Bailey is the treasurer of the NASW - Assurance Services Inc (ASI). ASI is headquartered in Frederick MD. In that capacity, he serves on the Executive/Audit / and Compensation committees

Professor Bailey was appointed by Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick to the board of directors of the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) in 2009 and was reappointed in 2013 for a term ending in 2019. At MEFA he chairs the nominations committee and is a member of the audit committee.

He is a member of the AIDS Action Committees, Inc. Advisory Council; and is a member of the AIDS Action Committees Program Committee. He is member of the board of the Fenway High School; is a member of the board of the Friends of Harriet Tubman Park, and the Friends of Titus Sparrow Park; is a member of the board of the trustees of Boston's Union United Methodist Church, and is a member of the Union United Methodist Church Leadership Team.

Professor Bailey is Vice Chair of the Board of Women of the Dream, Inc (WOD) is a national nonprofit (501-C3) organization that enables socially and financially disadvantaged girls, ages 12-18, to achieve their fullest potential and lead purposeful, healthy lives with guidance and education which is based in Camden NJ. Its lead partner is the Campbell Soup Company. WOD is dedicated to building community and empowering the leaders of tomorrow. The organization enjoys support from Office of the President / Simmons College the PSEG Foundation, The Nicholson Foundation, and sponsorship dollars from the New Jersey Education Association, and The Wealthy Women Club.

Professor Bailey has received numerous prestigious awards throughout his career: including the Boston University School of Social Work Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Social Work; the

Wayne S Wright Advocacy Award from the Multicultural AIDS Coalition; the Congressman Gerry Studs' Visibility Award from the Fenway Community Health Center in Boston and the Bayard Rustin Award for Courage from the AIDS Action Committee. He was named Social Worker of the Year by both the National and Massachusetts NASW in 1998 and in 2005 he was made a Social Work Pioneer by NASW, at the time he was the youngest individual to receive this honor.

In May 2013, he received the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, from the University of Connecticut. Professor Bailey is a frequent contributor to national periodicals such as the Huffington Post.



Steph Barrak

She/Her/Hers

Steph Barrak graduated from the Boston University School of Management in 2010 and shortly after began a career in business technology. While at work, Steph participates as a member of a small task force dedicated to increasing LGBTQ inclusiveness. When not in the private sector, Steph is passionate about community work, particularly working with at-risk and marginalized youth. Steph spent two years working directly with youth as a music mentor for the Boys & Girls Club in

Dorchester, MA and also has experience conducting program evaluation for a local organization that works with visually impaired and blind youth in conflict-affected regions.

Steph is also a queer, independent musical artist and has performed live for various LGBTQ clubs at colleges around Massachusetts (Wellesley College, Clark University). Born in Lebanon and raised in Connecticut, she currently resides in Jamaica Plain, MA.



Roger Bourgeois

He/His/Him

Roger Bourgeois has been a school superintendent for the last 8 years and has over 34 years of experience in vocational, technical, and agricultural education as a teacher and administrator. He has worked throughout his career to foster positive school cultures that are welcoming, accepting, and supportive of all students, and has spearheaded efforts in schools to create a supportive environment for LGBT students. He believes that a safe and nurturing school climate is a foundational prerequisite for students to achieve and succeed at high levels. Mr. Bourgeois has spoken widely to

school communities as a parent of a gay son. His family's story was featured on WCVB TV's Chronicle: Growing Up Gay in February, 2011. He and his wife, Robin, live in Middleton, MA. They are the proud parents of three children and four grandchildren.



Courtney Chelo

She/Her/Hers

Courtney Chelo is the Children's Behavioral Health Project Manager at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC). In that role she coordinates the work of the Children's Mental Health Campaign, a coalition of families, advocates, health care providers, educators, and consumers from across Massachusetts dedicated to comprehensive reform of the children's mental health system. Prior to joining the MSPCC, she served as a Policy Coordinator at Health Care For All, where she worked to expand access to quality, affordable oral health care and coverage for vulnerable populations. She is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire with a B.S. in Environmental and Resource Economics. Originally from Rhode Island, Courtney resides in Somerville.

Kristin Comment

She/Her/Hers

Kris teaches English and co-advises the GSA at Belmont High School; she is also a part-time Visiting Associate Professor at Framingham State University. She holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she piloted one of the first undergraduate classes in LGBT literature. Her research has explored representations of female homoeroticism in nineteenth-century literature, and she has published on lesbian themes in works by several 19th-century American writers, among them Emily Dickinson. Her article, "Wasn't she a lesbian?: Teaching Homoerotic Themes in Whitman and Dickinson" appeared in English Journal's 2009 special LGBT issue. She is currently working with a team of educators from across the state to produce ELA model curriculum units for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.



Julian Cyr

He/His/Him

Julian Cyr has broad experience in public policy, health advocacy, and politics. He has served on the Commission since January 2011, including a highly successful tenure as Chair (2013-2014). Julian was recently elected as State Senator for the Cape and Islands district. Prior to this, he was the Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs for Environmental Health at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. He organized on Governor Patrick and President Obama's successful re-election campaigns, and worked as a Harm-Reduction Counselor at the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod. Previously, Julian interned at the White House, contributing to green jobs policy and energy efficiency at the Council on Environmental Quality in the Executive Office of the President. He has also worked for the William J. Clinton Foundation's Clinton Global Initiative. Julian studied public policy and community health at New York University, where he also led undergraduate student government. He is a Cape Cod native and resident of Truro, Massachusetts.



Julian Dormitzer

She/Her/Hers

Julian joined the Fenway Institute at Fenway Health and now works there as a clinical research nurse on the Adolescent Trials Network Team. She serves as a member of the Young Leadership Council of Fenway Health and tutors youth at the Hyde Square Task Force. Julian graduated from Grand Valley State University in May of 2011 with a Bachelor's degree in nursing, where she wrote a senior thesis on HIV incidence among young men who have sex with men (MSM). Julian served as Commission Chair from 2015-2016. Originally from Traverse City, Michigan, Julian resides in Cambridge.



Mason Dunn

He/His/Him

Mason Dunn is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition and Co-Chair of the Freedom Massachusetts Education campaign. An educator and activist, Mason has been working for transgender rights around the country for 12 years. Mason is also an adjunct faculty member at UNH Manchester, teaching about LGBTQ rights and media perspectives. Mason is a member of the New Hampshire Bar Association, and a 2012 graduate of the Daniel Webster Honors Scholars Program at the University of New Hampshire, School of Law.



Athena Edmonds

She/Her/Hers

Advocate for LGBTQ Youth, currently serving on the Board of Greater Boston PFLAG, on the Steering Committee for Freedom MA, and on the MA Commission on LGBTQ Youth. Athena has advocated with the legislature, the insurance industry, and the medical establishment to address LGBTQ healthcare disparities. Athena is also a poet. Since completing her MFA in Creative Writing at Lesley University, her poetry has appeared in literary journals such as The Massachusetts Review, Connotation Press and Feminist Studies. She has completed residencies at Ragdale, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, and Hedgebrook. Between 2000 and 2006 Athena Edmonds founded and managed Zoe Capital, a fund whose principal investment focus was seed stage software start-ups. Before that, she founded and served as Managing and General Partner of Fayerweather, LP. For more than ten years, she advised and mentored companies in how to proceed with early stage venture financing. She is a venture partner at First Light Capital and Walnut Venture Associates, a member of Common Angels, and a member of the Venture Capital Advisory Board for the Center of Women and Enterprise in Boston. Apart from her MFA, Athena Edmonds holds a BS degree from MIT in Materials Science and Engineering, a BS from the Sloan School of Management, and a Certificate of Post-Graduate studies in Materials Science from the University of Cambridge in England. Born and raised in Thessaloniki, Greece, she lives with her husband and 4 children in greater Boston.



Valerie Frias

She/Her/Hers

Most recently Val was associate director of the Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation (CDC), where her focus was on building public-private coalitions to serve the community. Much of Val's policy work has been in healthcare and housing, two critical issues for the LGBTQ community Greater Boston PFLAG serves. In addition to her work at the Allston Brighton CDC, Frias served as Policy Director for Boston City Councilor Matt O'Malley, Senior Health Policy Analyst for the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, General Counsel for Massachusetts State Senator Mark Montigny, Counsel to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Counsel to the Leadership Conference on Civil and

Human Rights, as well as several other campaign roles and private law practice experience over the course of her career. Val earned her Juris Doctor degree at Northeastern University School of Law in 1999 and her B.A. with honors from Tufts University.



Shavon Fulcher

She/Her/Hers

Shavon Fulcher, LICSW, has been employed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for the last 14 years, and currently supervises DCF's Housing Stabilization Unit. During this time she has offered her skills while working in a variety of different positions, giving her a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of different areas of need within the populations she serves. She is also currently one of the LGBTQ liaisons with DCF.

Shavon has an affinity for the adolescent population, and continues to dedicate herself to working with and engaging this population. She is constantly educating herself and staying current on the serious and varied issues affecting this age group, so that she and others in the social work field can offer sustainable and age appropriate services that will best support them during their transition from adolescence to young adult. She has volunteered her time at youth service agencies such as Boston GLASS and community agencies like the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition.

Shavon received her Master of Social Work degree from Salem State University, where she currently serves as adjunct faculty. In addition, she teaches part-time for the online MSW program for Simmons College. Shavon also works with clients in a community setting, using a variety of multifaceted therapeutic models and approaches that are individually tailored to each person's needs.

Shavon is a member of both the National Association of Social Workers and the Greater Boston Association of Black Social Workers.



Paul Gels

He/His/Him

Paul is the Communications Manager for Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts and the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts. He completed his undergrad at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst studying Marketing and English with a minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Paul's passions include legislative advocacy, youth organizing, digital organizing, LGBTQ-inclusive sexuality education, and queer media. Born and raised in Boston, Paul currently resides in Fenway.



Scott Hadland

He/His/Him

Scott Hadland is an adolescent medicine physician at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He is a faculty member of the National LGBT Health Education Center, as well as member of the Institutional Review Board at the Fenway Institute. Dr. Hadland's clinical and research interests focus on substance use and other risk behaviors among youth. He received his MD degree from Washington University in St. Louis and his MPH from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health before completing his pediatrics residency and chief residency for the Boston Combined Residency Program. He is subspecialty trained in Adolescent Medicine and in Addiction Medicine.



Sasha Heggie

She/Her/Hers

Sasha received her Bachelors of Social Work from Bridgewater State University in 2016 and is currently completing her Masters of Social Work at Wheelock College. She has worked in the social services field for over ten years, and is very passionate about social and economic justice. Sasha currently works as a Medical Case Manager and Medical Social Work Intern. She is an active Nominations and Leadership Identification Committee member for the National Association of Social Workers- MA Chapter. Sasha has done volunteer work with Greater Boston PFLAG and Boston GLASS, co-facilitating support groups for families of LGBTQ youth of color, as well as public speaking with SpeakOUT. She resides in Whitman with her wife and their two fur babies.



Tanekwah Hinds

She/Her/Hers

Tanekwah Hinds is the Women's Health Program Coordinator at Fenway Health. She builds partnerships with local community organizations, plans outreach events for the Boston female LGBTQ+ community, and conducts research projects on the effect of HPV vaccinations, intimate partner violence, and birth control on queer patients. Her diverse professional and volunteer experience emphasizes public health issues in relation to marginalized communities, including women, racial groups, and the

LGBTQ community. In her previous roles, she has developed a resource guide for minority faculty, co-facilitated a discussion on racialized language, and presented on Black Twitter as a socio-technological tool for racial empowerment. During her free time, Tanekwah enjoys riding her bike, reading BuzzFeed articles, and watching "The Wire."



Susan Hollins

She/Her/Hers

Susan grew up in an extremely rural place, followed by living 10 years in Boston. She went from a limited, rural high school education to somehow earning a Ph.D. with distinction from a top US college. She transitioned from a serious, classical musician (piano) to a school superintendent, spending 40 years as a central office school administrator in three states. Susan has strong core beliefs and has challenged the system at times, which takes courage and stamina. She's been recognized as a leader in school reform, had her own consulting firm, and has been active in addressing and changing legislation in three states. Her only child's life has taught her tons about the LGBTQ experience, although she is still learning. She's taught at four

graduate schools and has skills in policy, budget, legislation, disability, change. She cares about people, communities, inclusion, nondiscrimination, and every variety of youth. Retired from full-time school superintendent work in 2014, she consults in issues that span fields of education, the arts, and economic development and is starting to practice piano again after 40 years. She was recently elected to her local school committee and is now, a member of both MASC and MASS. This is her third year with the commission.



Nicolas John

He/His/Him

Nicolas has worked in Massachusetts State Government in various capacities over the last five years. At present, he is the Chief of Staff to the Vice Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means. He has been proud to serve as a member of the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth since 2012. He uses his government background and knowledge of the state budget process to help advise and advance the Commission's legislative and budget priorities. He sought membership on this Commission as a way to put his knowledge and expertise to good use to advance the broad and diverse community to which

he belongs. It has been an honor and a privilege for him to be part of such a passionate and dedicated group over the years.

Harold Jones

He/His/Him

Harold is an attorney at the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and Northeastern University School of Law. Harold resides in Cambridge.

**Rachel Kahn**

She/Her/Hers

Rachel is a mental health clinician, and expressive therapist, who works as 1/3 of the behavioral health staff at the Sidney Borum Jr. Health Center (the youth branch of Fenway Health, serving clients 12-29 years old). At the Borum, Rachel provides clinical care to LGBTQ youth/young adults-- as well as youth/young adults who are experiencing homelessness, sex work, substance abuse, recent HIV/STI diagnoses, and street involvement-- and developed/facilitates a monthly drop-in night for parents/guardians of transgender and gender nonconforming youth. Prior to joining the Borum staff, Rachel spent many years working with adolescents in out of home therapeutic placements, and intensive day stabilization services. In that capacity, she piloted innovative therapeutic programming integrating social justice, diversity issues, and expressive arts into the treatment milieu, and created/facilitated a GSA for youth in acute levels of care.

Rachel is also a freelance writer and performer, and performs regularly as part of The Femme Show-- a Boston-based performance collective creating work about queer femininity and femme identity. Rachel has performed, provided trainings, and facilitated workshops all over the east coast. She has also served as the volunteer coordinator for the 2009 International Expressive Arts Therapies Association (IEATA) conference and as a steering committee member/the volunteer chair for the 2012 Femme Conference. Rachel holds a Master's degree in expressive therapies and mental health counseling from Lesley University, and a Bachelor's degree in English from Mount Holyoke College. She lives in Jamaica Plain.

**Stewart Landers**

He/His/Him

Stewart was born and raised in New York City and moved to Boston in 1973 when he was 17 and came out as a gay man. Since then, he was part of numerous gay organizations including serving as chair of Fenway Community Health in the 1980s and the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Bar Association in the 1990s. He became involved with the Commission at the invitation of Arthur Lipkin, former Chair. His commitment to the Commission is to support the development of policies in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that lead to safe spaces for LGBTQ youth of color and abilities.



Allen Lin
He/His/Him

Allen is a Ph.D. student in Systems Biology at Harvard University. His research focuses on developing new therapies against HIV at the Ragon Institute of Massachusetts General Hospital, MIT, and Harvard. He graduated with a M.Sc. in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2014, where he wrote a thesis modeling the health benefits and cost-effectiveness of vaccinating gay and bisexual men against the human papillomavirus (HPV) in the United Kingdom, to protect against cancers disproportionately faced by such men. This research

subsequently led the UK government to extend HPV vaccination beyond girls to include gay and bisexual men and transgender women. He also holds an M.Phil. in Technology Policy from the University of Cambridge, and engineering degrees from MIT. Originally from New Jersey, Allen resides in Brookline.

Mark Mettler
He/His/Him

Mark is the married father of two adult children, the younger of whom is a 22 year old transgender female. He's been a volunteer speaker for Greater Boston PFLAG for the last several years, and last July was elected Board Chair of the organization. He is taking advantage of this opportunity to join the Commission because he's interested in learning more about the way public entities, non-profit organizations, and private businesses work together to address challenges in our society. After a 32 year career in corporate America, he recently began a sabbatical to figure out how he wants to spend the rest of his life. Part of his motivation was to devote more time to his work with PFLAG, and more broadly to supporting LGBT rights and improving environments and outcomes for LGBT youth. His wife Laurie and him, also own a small business, a retail store in Wellesley, which will take some more of his time now. They currently live in Westborough, but with both kids out of the house are thinking about downsizing and moving closer to Wellesley. His personal passions are writing, cooking, and golf, all of which he hopes to do more of this year.



Engie Mota
She/Her/Hers

Engie is the Diversity and Inclusion Manager for the Commonwealth's Executive Offices of Health and Human Services where she acts as a liaison between several stakeholders in order to build collaborative and inclusive diverse communities. Engie also has several years of experience advocating on issues of disability and civil rights, as well as labor and employment law. She holds a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law, a Master's in Public Administration from Suffolk University's Sawyer School of Business and a Bachelors of Arts in

International Relations with a focus on business economics and Latin American Studies.

Engie joined the Commission in hopes of using her knowledge in the area of diversity and her legal advocacy skills to advance the work needed to build an inclusive community in which our youth can grow and thrive.



Brett Nava-Coulter
He/His/Him

Brett is a doctoral candidate at Northeastern University. His primary focus is on the sociology of gender, sexuality, and social movements. Past areas of research have looked at the relationships between transgender youth and their families, the importance of LGBTQ community centers, and identity transformations for trans men post-transition. He teaches at Tufts and Northeastern University. Brett resides in Jamaica Plain.



Daniel J. O'Donoghue
He/His/Him

Daniel is an educator and activist with a long history of working and volunteering within the Trans and LGB community across Massachusetts. He currently teaches Health, Family, & Consumer Sciences to middle and high school students at Hopkins Academy in Hadley, MA. He strives to be a positive and visible role model to both students and staff in an effort to create a fully inclusive learning community. In addition to his role as a teacher, Daniel advises the Training Active Bystanders and Embracing Diversity Club, and co-advises the GSA.

Daniel received a Master of Education in Social Justice Education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and is passionate about creating spaces where people can explore their personal stories, discuss the complexity of their identities and build relationships across difference using a social justice framework. His experiences at UMass included co-teaching undergraduate courses in intergroup dialogue (IGD) and transgender oppression, as well as being trained in Social Justice Mediation.

Prior to teaching, Daniel worked with multiple populations of folks who were impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault, substance abuse, mental health challenges and homelessness, including work at TransCEND, a program of AIDS Action Committee, GLSEN Massachusetts and the GLBTQ Domestic Violence Project. Daniel has been a Steering Committee member and co-Chair of the Community Organization committee at Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC), as well as volunteering as an Adult Advisor at BAGLY.

Daniel is one of the founding members of the TrailStormers, a trans/all gender inclusive softball team in Boston and enjoys spending as much time on the field as he does off, creating an inclusive place for folks to connect and have fun. Daniel resides in Easthampton, where he enjoys nature photography and can often be found walking in the woods, hiking and birding.

**Katie Omberg**

She/Her/Hers or They/Them/Theirs

Katie Omberg graduated in May 2016 from Boston University School of Theology with a Masters in Divinity. A native of Washington, DC, Katie is a member of the United Church of Christ and a fan of comic books. Currently, Katie works two part time jobs as a church administrator at a church in Cambridge and as the Director of Community Engagement at City Mission, and is also on the Coordinating Team for the Boston Chapter of Black & Pink. Before moving to Boston for grad school, Katie attended Mount Holyoke College and worked at various art museums and a bicycle advocacy organization in DC. Katie enjoys cartooning, hiking and eating desserts.

**Elijah Oyenuga**

He/His/Him

Elijah Oyenuga is a Sophomore at Lesley University. He majors in Education and English and hopes to help youth foster a love for learning and education. Elijah also works with Boston GLASS (Gay & Lesbian Adolescent Social Services) as a peer leader and serves on the Education Committee. His role on the Education Committee allows him to work with teachers from middle and high schools in the Greater Boston area to educate, raise awareness and inspire sympathy in our youth in order to garner understanding and promote tolerance for

LGBTQ youth. Elijah hopes to attend law school and use the law to make the world more accessible and safe for LGBTQ youth.

Susan S. Rees

She/Her/Hers

Appointed to the Commission by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Susan co-chairs the Safe Schools Committee. She has over thirty years of professional experiences in public education dedicated to working in collaboration with teachers and administrators to advance the rights and lives of children. She has served as executive director of ACCEPT Education Collaborative, a nonprofit agency serving 15 school districts in Metrowest to promote excellence and innovation in educational practice. Her previous experience also includes classroom and university teaching and school administration. Currently, Susan is an educational consultant specializing in leadership and teacher development to build capacity in general education to serve students with diverse learning needs. She is a past member of the board of the Massachusetts Federation for the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), serving as their Child and Youth Advocacy Network representative in Washington, D.C., the Learning Disabilities Network (LDN), and the Massachusetts Organization of Education Collaboratives (MOEC). She has six grown children and resides in Brookline, MA with her husband.



Erika Rickard, J.D.

She/Her/Hers

Erika is a lawyer, and the Access to Justice Coordinator for the MA Trial Court. She has expertise on juvenile justice, youth homelessness, and child welfare issues. When Erika was an AAG at the Attorney General's Office, she worked to implement the Massachusetts Bullying Prevention Law. A current member and former Vice Chair of the Commission, Erika previously co-chaired the Government Relations Committee, and spearheaded the Policy Recommendations for several years. She holds her J.D. from Harvard Law School and her Bachelor's degree from Mills College. Originally from Tucson, AZ, Erika lives in Jamaica Plain with her wife Sarah and baby Henry.

Lea Layle Saqran

They/Them/Theirs

Lea works as an independent consultant, specifically with individuals and community organizations advocating for LGBTQ and gender justice and awareness using an immigration and racial justice lens. Their work is focused on cultivating anti-racist spaces for queer and transgender folks coming from the South West Asian and North African (SWANA) region as immigrants, asylees and/or refugees. They have worked with Hispanic and Black Gay Coalition as the Mentorship Program Coordinator, with GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders as a Public Affairs and Education Intern, and for the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth as a Policy & Education Fellow. Lea hopes to contribute their intersectional perspective to the policy and community work of the MCLGBTQY and to farther build the Commission's bridges between the state and the immigrant LGBTQ community of color.

Lea is also the Program Volunteer Coordinator for Harvard Medical School's mobile clinic, the Family Van, where they organize and train students to provide free preventative healthcare and education to the socioeconomically disadvantaged and underserved neighborhoods of Boston.



Henry Schoenfield

He/His/Him

Henry Schoenfield thrives in the intersection of spirituality and the human experience. He is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ as well as a Certified Professional Coach and Spiritual Director. Originally from Atlanta, GA, Henry received his Masters' of Divinity from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans and has worked in urban settings of Washington DC, Seattle, and New York City before moving to Boston. He finds challenge and reward in

environments abundant in diversity and culture. Currently, he is serving as interim Senior Minister in Somerville, MA. In his free time, he enjoys traveling and experiencing new places through food. Henry lives with his husband in Lynn.



Kayla Shanks

She/Her/Hers or They/Them/Theirs

Kayla Shanks is a demigirl in her junior year of high school, attending Brockton High School. This year, she serves her second term as Co-Vice President for her school's Gender and Sexuality Alliance. She is a recurrent columnist for the Boxer Roundup — the school's section of the local newspaper, The Enterprise — often discussing cultural and LGBTQ+ topics. She is eager to educate on and advocate for minorities (whether it be gender, sexuality, ethnicity, religion, disability, etc) as well as inclusive and brave spaces. Kayla is also a peer leader at BrALGY (Brockton Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth) for the year of 2017. In her down time, she writes personal pieces and poetry. Also, she watches playthroughs of psychological thriller video games. Kayla loves dogs, pastel colors, and dining at the Texas Roadhouse. A native Bostonian, Kayla resides in Brockton, Massachusetts.

Deborah Shields

She/Her/Hers

Deborah Shields JD, MPH is the Executive Director of MassEquality. Deborah spent over twenty years working with people with HIV/AIDS, first serving as an attorney at Harvard Law School's AIDS Law Clinic and later as the Executive Director of the AIDS Project and AIDS Lodging House in Portland, Maine. She also served as the Executive Director of the Maine Sexual Assault Coalition and the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition. She has worked as a policy analyst, legislative campaign director, and legal advocate in various social justice and public health organizations. She has been involved in LGBTQ civil rights issues since high school, and was heavily involved in the Massachusetts and Maine campaigns to pass LGBTQ civil rights, marriage equality and protections for people with HIV/AIDS. She served as a founding board member of Outright, Maine's first organization for LGBTQ youth. Deborah serves as adjunct faculty at the University of New England's School of Public Health.



Kelly Simon

She/Her/Hers

Kelly currently teaches high school students in English Language Arts and co-advises the Gender & Sexuality Alliance (GSA; formerly Gay Straight Alliance) at Westfield High School in Westfield, MA. In 2003, she began teaching at Westfield Vocational Technical High School; when a student approached her about starting a GSA, she had no idea how to go about doing that! During a brief leave to complete her M.Ed. in Social Justice Education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, she studied GSAs in vocational technical schools, gender and sexuality, size oppression, multicultural organizational development (MCOD), and intergroup dialogue (IGD). She was fortunate to work as the graduate assistant and Speakers Bureau Coordinator for the Stonewall Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst; upon return to teaching in Westfield (this time at the high school), she was not only ready to take on the work of

advising a GSA, but also more knowledgeable and prepared to facilitate an English Language Arts classroom from the lens of promoting social justice and diversity. Prior to teaching, Kelly was an AmeriCorps member working as the Legal Referral Program Coordinator and a Counselor/Advocate at Safe Passage, an agency serving survivors of domestic violence. When hired full-time at Safe Passage, she worked as a SAFEPLAN advocate in the Probate and Family Court. When not teaching, grading papers, or chaperoning GSA students at conferences and regional meetings, she enjoys writing, running, dancing, and playing softball. Originally from Colorado, Kelly now resides in Easthampton.



Taj Smith
He/His/Him

Taj M. Smith graduated from Harvard Divinity School (HDS) with a M.Div in 2016. He is a member of the United Church of Christ where he is invested in conversations that will expand hospitality to transgender and gender non-conforming people. Prior to attending HDS, he had another life as a singer/songwriter and a professional street performer. He sees no limit to the imagination and seeks out creative ways to advocate for justice, usually through artistic expression. He is an avid sci-fi lover and a longtime musician. He also loves hats.



Grace Sterling Stowell
She/Her/Hers

Grace has been a pioneering activist and leader in the social justice and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) youth communities for over 35 years. She is the founding executive director of the Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Youth (BAGLY), one of the oldest and largest LGBT youth organizations in the nation. She is a founding member of several local and national LGBT youth advocacy organizations, and she currently serves as an Executive Committee member of the Massachusetts Commission on LGBT Youth and Steering Committee member of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC). Grace is also a nationally known advocate and leader on the issues facing transgender youth and young adults. Grace received a B.A. in English from Curry College in Milton, MA and a M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Lesley University in Cambridge, where she resides. While Grace has served many roles in her community work over the past three decades, she is particularly honored to be known as “Mother” (and now “Grandmother!”) by three generations of greater Boston’s LGBT youth.



Kendra Taylor

She/Her/Hers

Kendra recently moved from Tennessee where she worked as a Regional Coordinator for Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network. In 2014 she received her B.S. in Psychology from Middle Tennessee State University. Since moving to Boston she began working for Families for Depression Awareness as the Teen Depression Program Coordinator. Kendra helps recruit teen and young adult speakers who have been diagnosed with depression or bipolar disorder. She also helps organizing workshops and events where the teens share their personal stories on how they manage depression. In addition to, Kendra works as a Life Coach at Roxbury Youthworks, Inc. GIFT Program. She does treatment work and case management for teenage girls who have been or are at risk of sexually

exploitation. Kendra cares about the development of youth and helping them gain independence to make their own decisions and create success for themselves.



Lawrence Vinson

He/His/Him

Lawrence originally hails from Georgia where he attended Morehouse College. Late he moved to Boston in 2009 where he started working as a Medical Case Manager at Boston Medical Center. His duties include home visits, medication support, HIV testing services ID Clinic, STD Clinic, and inpatient HIV testers doing HIV/STD counseling for newly diagnosed positive patients. He then transitioned to Codman Square Health Center and from there Fenway Health. Lawrence specialized in Gay/Bi/Tran HIV (+) patients of color. Lawrence provided medical case management services to clients who were engaged/retained in-care and those who have

falling out-of-care. At Fenway SMILE Linkage to Care Program, a youth program that Link, engage, and retain HIV+ youth. Lawrence, through a racial justice lens, assisted the creation and proactive reinforcement of policies, practices, attitudes and actions that produce equitable power, access, opportunities, treatment and outcomes for all. Now Lawrence now work for the Massachusetts's Department of Public Health as an Epidemiologist providing with preventive treatment and linkable services to people infected with STID's and HIV/AIDS. Lawrence services as chair of the Ryan White Part A HIV funding in the Boston Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) for people living with HIV/AIDS. He also is the vice-chair of the Harvard University Center for AIDS Research CAB. Lawrence aspires to assist with foster constructive dialogues and actionable items to one day dismantle racism, discrimination, and racial justice that plaque LGBTQ people of color in hopes to achieve equitable systemic change on a state, and one day, a national level.



Mica Warton

They/Them/Theirs

Mica is a social justice educator, facilitator and restorative justice practitioner committed to facilitating radical healing in our communities. Currently they manage the Youth/Police Dialogues program at YW Boston, working with schools, community organizations and police departments to engage in conversations on bias and community safety, among other topics. Prior to that, they worked with middle schools in Oakland, CA implementing restorative justice practices with the goal of eliminating disproportionate discipline of students of color, queer students and students with

disabilities. They also have written and taught project-based learning curricula for 6th and 7th grade English and math using woodworking and story-telling. They live in Chelsea with their partner, their foster children and their two dogs.



Ashley Waterberg

She/Her/Hers

Ashley works as a middle school social worker in the Revere Public School system. She serves as one of three representatives of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) on the Commission, and she also serves as a co-chair of the LGBTQA Special Interest Group through the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Massachusetts Chapter. During her spare time, she enjoys hiking, biking, dancing, snowshoeing, road trips and exploring new places. Ashley received her Master's degree in Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis and her undergraduate degree in Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Vermont.

Jess Weaver

Jess originally moved to Massachusetts to serve as Community Organizing & Outreach Manager of the SouthCoast Energy Challenge, a nonprofit dedicated to improving energy efficiency through community outreach. The project served 27 cities and towns in the region and helped reduce its carbon footprint. This opportunity followed work in both political and advocacy organizing, as well as an educational background in political science and psychology. In 2016, Jess is working in state electoral politics and continuing to explore New England as often as possible.

Consultants & Staff



Alexandria Chiu

Safe Schools Program Coordinator

She/Her/Hers or They/Them/Theirs

Alex is currently the Program Coordinator for the Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Youth. She is originally from the Greater Boston area. Before returning to Boston, she was in Indonesia serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer.



Hannah Hussey

Director of Policy and Research

She/Her/Hers

Hannah started as the Commission's Director of Policy and Research in 2015, after having earlier served for two years as the Commission's Coordinator. She has also worked as a Research Associate at the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C., where she produced policy documents focusing on the needs of LGBTQ youth in relation to homelessness, juvenile justice, education, immigration, and economic security. Previously, Hannah held internships with MassEquality and the Boston Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights and spent several years as a freelance reporter. Originally from Maine, Hannah received her B.A. in sociology and women's, gender, and sexuality studies from Tufts University, where her capstone project examined the contributions of feminist and queer theory to asexuality studies.



Landen A Motyka

Commission Coordinator

They/Them/Theirs

Landen first began working with the Commission in June 2014, after a yearlong internship in Community Outreach and Engagement at the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC). While interning at MPTC, they acted as the lead coordinator and co-founder of the community event CAT MAGIC, a dance night and social event for transgender and gender non-conforming people of Boston. Prior to MTPC, Landen earned a Bachelor's degree in Illustration from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design (MassArt), where they completed a senior thesis

focused on transgender and gender non-conforming identities. Landen left the Commission in late 2015 to begin a Masters in Social Work (MSW) at Simmons College and has returned to the Commission for a year. Landen will be working the Commission until the summer of 2016, when they will return to finish their MSW and begin a nine month placement in MassArt's Counseling and Wellness Center.



Jeff Perrotti

Safe Schools Program Director

He/His/Him

Jeff Perrotti is the founding director of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Safe Schools Program for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Students. He is the co-author of *When the Drama Club is not Enough* (Beacon Press, 2002). Jeff is a graduate of Northwestern University, University of California at Santa Barbara, and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He has conducted numerous workshops on sexual orientation, gender, anti-bullying, resilience, and suicide and violence prevention for school administrators, counselors, nurses, coaches, teachers, parents, and students. For the past six years, Jeff

has worked closely with vocational technical schools to support students who are interested in careers that are nontraditional for their gender. Jeff teaches and advises students at Harvard University, where he has received several awards for excellence in teaching. Jeff is a consultant for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Commission.



Jason Wheeler

Safe Schools Program Manager

He/His/Him

Jason Wheeler has been professionally committed to youth development and leadership for the past 17 years, beginning with his extensive involvement in National Service programs that focused on issues related to education, disability inclusion, and social justice. Jason now provides national training and technical assistance on a variety of topics ranging from youth engagement to strategic planning and organizational development. He has worked extensively with LGBTQ youth, veterans, and disabled people. He is a graduate trainee of the Leadership Education in

Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Program at Children's Hospital Boston, a graduate-level interdisciplinary training for health professionals. Jason serves as a Board Member and the Conference Chair for the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) of Massachusetts.